

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JNR/PB60092A	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB2004/005135	International filing date (day/month/year) 09/12/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 12/12/2003
Applicant GLAXO GROUP LIMITED		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☒ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/005135

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N35/00 B25J11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01N B25J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98/01760 A (BECKMAN INSTRUMENTS, INC; PANG, WING, S; GROSS, MARK; TANUMIHARDJA, HE) 15 January 1998 (1998-01-15) page 4, line 24 - page 12, line 9 page 31 - page 32 figures 1-16B	1-62
A	US 2003/215360 A1 (RUDDOCK TREVOR) 20 November 2003 (2003-11-20) paragraph '0002! - paragraph '0005! paragraph '0059! - paragraph '0062! figures 1,4-9	1-62
A	US 6 539 334 B1 (SAWAFTA REYAD I) 25 March 2003 (2003-03-25) column 4 - column 7 figures 1-4,14	1-62
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/05/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/005135

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 769 775 A (QUINLAN ET AL) 23 June 1998 (1998-06-23) the whole document -----	1-62
A	EP 1 256 808 A (PRECISION SYSTEM SCIENCE CO., LTD) 13 November 2002 (2002-11-13) the whole document -----	1-62
A	US 6 656 724 B1 (HEIMBERG WOLFGANG ET AL) 2 December 2003 (2003-12-02) the whole document -----	1-62

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 63-65

In view of the formulation of claims 63-66 relying on references to the accompanying drawings and the broadness of the scope resulting therefrom, it is rendered difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, the present application fails to comply with the clarity and conciseness requirements of Article 6 PCT (see also Rule 6.1(a) PCT) to such an extent that a meaningful search is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear and concise enough, namely 1-62

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/005135

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 63-65
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/005135

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9801760	A	15-01-1998	AU	3651497 A		02-02-1998
			CA	2255839 A1		15-01-1998
			EP	0909389 A2		21-04-1999
			JP	2001505648 T		24-04-2001
			WO	9801760 A2		15-01-1998
			US	6060022 A		09-05-2000
US 2003215360	A1	20-11-2003	EP	1366822 A2		03-12-2003
US 6539334	B1	25-03-2003	AU	771688 B2		01-04-2004
			AU	8129601 A		21-01-2002
			CA	2384345 A1		17-01-2002
			EP	1214568 A1		19-06-2002
			JP	2004503742 T		05-02-2004
			WO	0204900 A1		17-01-2002
US 5769775	A	23-06-1998	CA	2211543 A1		26-01-1998
EP 1256808	A	13-11-2002	EP	1256808 A1		13-11-2002
			US	6691748 B1		17-02-2004
US 6656724	B1	02-12-2003	DE	29720432 U1		25-03-1999
			AT	201101 T		15-05-2001
			DE	59800705 D1		13-06-2001
			WO	9926070 A2		27-05-1999
			EP	1032839 A2		06-09-2000
			JP	2001523823 T		27-11-2001